

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT O 01495 181641Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

AID-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 EA-10 /055 W

----- 084482

R 181210Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7936

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1495

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, TD

SUBJ: STATUS OF IDC IRON AND STEEL PROJECT; PROCESS

TECHNOLOGY STILL NOT CHOSEN

REF: POS 572 AND PREVIOUS

ALSO FOR COMMERCE/MEPD

1. TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED JUNE 17 THAT A FORMAL PARTNER-SHIP AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED ON JULY 15 WITH TWO JAPANESE COMPANIES TO OPERATE THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S (IDC) IRON AND STEEL PROJECT. THIS FOLLOWED THE JUNE 8 SIGNING OF A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH DUTCH-BASED ESTEL-HOOGOVS, WHICH WILL HOLD 16.5 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE JOINT VENTURE. THE TWO JAPANESE PARTNERS ARE THE KAWASAKI STEEL COMPANY, WHICH WILL HOLD 11.5 PERCENT, AND MITSUI AND CO. LTD., 5 PERCENT. FOR THE MOMENT, THE GOVT WILL RETAIN 67 PERCENT EQUITY INTEREST, BUT MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ERROL MAHABIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S SHARE MAY BE REDUCED TO NOT LESS THAN 51 PERCENT, DEPENDING UPON ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SUPPLIER OF DIRECT REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED BY THE PLANT. MAHABIR ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE AMOCO OIL COMPANY (WHICH WILL PRODUCE THE NATURAL GAS TO FUEL THE PROCESS) HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBLY ACQUIRING A SMALL SHARE-HOLDING IN THE COMPANY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE JUNE 8 ANNOUNCEMENT, ESTEL IS COMMITTED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 01495 181641Z

ONLY TO AN UNSPECIFIED "FIRST PHASE" OF THE PROJECT, AND A

FINAL INVESTMENT DECISION WILL BE MADE IN SIX TO NINE MONTHS.
THE JUNE 17 ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT THE GOTT AND THE JAPANESE
PARTNERS HAD NEGOTIATED A "DRAFT AGREEMENT" WHICH PRESUMABLY
MAY BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVISION BEFORE THE JULY 15 SIGNING
DATE. THUS IT APPEARS THAT SOME OF THE UNRESOLVED
ISSUES DESCRIBED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN MARCH (REFTEL) ARE
STILL PENDING, IN ADDITION TO THE KEY QUESTION OF PROCESS TECHNOLOGY.

3. FOR MEPD: HAS ARMCO FOLLOWED UP ON ITS DECEMBER 11 CABLE
AS RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL? WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON STATUS
OF OFFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM ARMCO'S POINT OF VIEW.
RICH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, STEEL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), JOINT VENTURES, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO01495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750212-0892
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750638/aaaabios.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 POS 572
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF IDC IRON AND STEEL PROJECT; PROCESS TECHNOLOGY STILL NOT CHOSEN
TAGS: BEXP, EIND, TD, JA, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006